

27 July 1976

Mr. John J. Zakarian  
President  
National Conference of  
Editorial Writers  
1725 N St. NW  
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Mr. Zakarian,

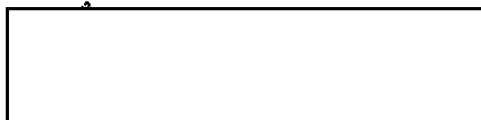
Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to your letter of June 2 to the Director of Central Intelligence.

I regret that the policy adopted by the Central Intelligence Agency (as outlined in the statement of February 11) is considered "inadequate" by your Board. It was adopted as a voluntary limitation on the Agency's legitimate foreign intelligence function in order to eliminate even the appearance of possible impropriety and in response to constitutional concerns which we understand and share.

As for divulging names of persons, in journalism or any other profession, who in all good faith undertook to assist their government in an individual capacity with the assurance that their contribution would remain secret, Mr. Bush has stated his position on this matter and is determined not to betray the Agency's commitment of confidentiality. Beyond that, as you may be aware, the Director of Central Intelligence is responsible under the law for the protection of methods and sources of intelligence.

We appreciate your concern and we thank you for sharing your views with us.

Sincerely,



Andrew T. Falkiewicz  
Assistant to the Director  
of Central Intelligence

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